



## **INFORMATION KIT**



Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest in Joi's Angels. This information kit is meant to give you a brief synopsis of our work. We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to building and uplifting the community, particularly individuals and families in crisis. Purposed to restore and maintain human dignity, our outreach efforts include a wide array of charitable community programs and services.

I strongly encourage you to visit our virtual home: <a href="www.joisangels.com">www.joisangels.com</a>. There you will experience the full depth and breadth of how and why we serve.

Yours in service,

Mark

Mark Smith
Executive Director





#### MISSION

Joi's Angels is a faith-based ministry dedicated to providing critical assistance to the displaced, challenged and homeless by supplying food, shelter, advocacy and life essentials.

#### **VISION**

Joi's Angels aspires to become a comprehensive crisis resource center that transforms lives and moves communities toward social, mental, physical, financial and spiritual self-sufficiency.

#### **ABOUT**

Founded in 2005 by Mark and Joi Smith, Joi's Angels began as a loving home created to help people of diverse backgrounds "get their wings". It has burgeoned into a multifaceted non-profit 501(c)(3) agency headquartered in East Orange, NJ. Outreach efforts have expanded to include a home-needs warehouse in Newark, NJ as well as multiple outposts for charitable distribution to the homeless, needy individuals and partner organizations across Essex, Hudson, Morris and Union counties.

Mark's former trials and tribulations inform his approach to persons in need: supporting and uplifting them with honor, honesty and decency. He knows what it takes to reach the homeless, ex-offenders, chemically addicted, mentally challenged, and myriad others who experience life's difficult periods. His management style is simple: he would never ask another to do something that he would not do himself. With his loyal crew and a box truck, he manages the properties while coordinating bulk food transport, furniture delivery and toy pickup/distribution.

Joi's background in management, purchasing and advocacy enables her to administer and organize all outreach and fundraising endeavors. She approaches both clients and volunteers with compassion, neither judging nor refusing any person who asks for help. From soliciting toy donations for the annual Holiday Carnival (which has outgrown its former location and is now held at Essex County College) to washing and ironing t-shirts for the volunteers or making care packages, Joi is an indefatigable community organizer.

Mission-driven, Mark and Joi labor diligently. Their humble approach to work and all whom they encounter leaves most unaware of the countless accolades and awards bestowed upon them by governmental and community organizations. "They don't want anything, except to be a guiding hand leading folks to better Days" (Star-Ledger, December 9, 2018).

#### **HOW WE SERVE**

- •We distribute food to homeless and needy individuals in several counties and partner organizations throughout northern New Jersey;
- We provide homeless relief and shelter and social services advocacy to men with disabilities.
- We supply life essentials to men, women, children and infants for the restoration and/or maintenance of dignity and public health;
- We offer networking, advocacy and placement assistance for any person requiring resources;
- We promote the safety and well-being of inner-city teens and young adults with a safe space and the opportunity to practice civic engagement n conjunction with several schools;
- We operate ANGEL SPOT a warehouse stocked with donated home furnishings, available to the community at little or no cost.

#### **IMPACT:**

PERSONS SERVED	2017	2018	2019
Food	18,769	27,949	39,912
Diapers	690	1,075	1,569
Life Essentials	5,111	10,092	14,639
Shelter	42	38	57



#### **FOOD**

- > On-site Food Pantry (twice a month)
- Emergency Food Assistance
- Blind and Hearing-Impaired Veterans Pantry
- > Senior Housing Food Program: 8 locations
- Free Fresh Produce Farmers Market (monthly)
- > Essex County College student food pantry
- Turkey Time (Thanksgiving)



Where on earth a light shines into a dark place, there will an angel be.

~ Unknown

#### **MOTHERS & INFANTS**

**Mommy Diaper Pantry (Monthly)** 

**Community Baby Shower (Annually)** 

**Emergency Assistance** 

#### **OUTREACH**

- Community Clean Program
- Operation Warm Heart
- Pet Food Pantry
- > Community Movie Nights
- > Prison Re-Entry Program
- SWEP Summer Work Employment Program
- National Night Out (Host Site)
- Holiday Carnival (Founding Sponsor)
- > Halloween costume/candy giveaway
- Student Community Service Program
- Probation Community Service

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

- > Elizabeth Coalition for the Homeless
- East Orange Public Library
- Mental Health Association of Morris County
- Temple B'nai Abraham, Livingston
- Essex County Community College
- United Way of Northern NJ
- > YMCA

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- City of Newark Board of Education
- United Methodist Communities
- Have Mercy Ministries
- ➤ H & R Block
- City of East Orange
- > 7-Eleven, Freeway Drive, East Orange
- > City of Orange Fire Department

- Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Hillside
- Community Psychiatric Institute
- ➤ Mental Health Association of Essex County
- Community Psychiatric Institute
- City of Newark Housing Authority
- > NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- **➤** Whole Foods, Newark
- > Sierra House
- Amerigroup
- > L-Train Foundation, Union
- East Orange General Hospital
- Essex County Sheriff's Department
- > CURA Adult Residential & Re-entry Center
- Omega Phi Psi Fraternity

#### **OFFICE**

114 South Arlington Avenue East Orange, NJ 07018 **Phone:** (973) 395-4348

Fax: (908) 325-1332 Email:joisangels@gmail.com Web: www.joisangels.com

#### WAREHOUSE

257-259 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Newark, NJ 07103 **Phone:** (862) 888-1855

Fax: (908) 325-1332



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# Founders

Joi's Angels was founded in East Orange, New Jersey by Mark and Joi Smith in the summer of 2004.

The initial idea was to create a housing facility that would serve as a safe haven and place of refuge for the underserved population of Essex and Union Counties. Remarkably, it has blossomed into so much more.

After overcoming tragedies and the disappointments that often plague urban life, visionary, Executive Director, and Co-founder, Mark Smith, vowed to build and organization that would provide support to displaced persons that uses a dignified and non-judgmental approach. To Mark, the homeless, exoffenders, drug addicted, or any other negative societal or clinical title given persons experiencing a "difficult moment" in their lives, did not have to translate into a perpetual state of being—for it was just that…a moment in time.

Mark decided to enlist the assistance of his wife Joi, a veteran administrator within the field of community supportive services. Together they created Joi's Angels, to be a catalyst for "real" life change. Combining their expertise in cultural and urban affairs, along with their ability to connect with decision makers in all areas of government, and corporations within the private and public sectors, Joi's Angels has effectuated a documented trend in the decrease of hunger and poverty among the low- to moderate-income population in Northern New Jersey.

With Mark's initial vision, coupled with stellar ground support, Joi's Angels has risen to the level of immediate brand recognition within the niche population it serves. It is also known as a trusted partner to its industries' base, businesses and institutions alike. Today, Joi's Angels has transcended from being just a shelter and emergency services organization.

Currently, Joi's Angels provides wholesome groceries, "farmers market" fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and fish to over 2,000 families per month. In addition, Mark and Joi have expanded their outreach by creating a Community Outreach and Resource Division dedicated to improving the eating habits and food preparation of seniors, LMI adults, children, and families in crisis. To promote healthy living and quality lifestyle habits, Joi's Angels conducts in-house cooking demonstrations and designs nutritious recipe leaflets based on items distributed at monthly food pantries.

In other words, *Joi's Angels has been sent from above*.

## Joi's Angels ...in the news.

## Couple enlists army of 'Angels' to help homeless

Updated Dec 10, 2018; Posted Dec 9, 2018



#### By Barry Carter | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

Mark and Joi Smith had no idea what they were doing 15 years ago. The married couple figured their second home -- four bedrooms and four bathrooms on South Arlington Avenue in East Orange -- was big enough to help the homeless get back on their feet.

Their hearts were, one might say, too big when they started Joi's Angels, a faith based non-profit organization that stumbled out of the gate providing shelter, food and emergency services. The first generous mistake of kindness was to let several people – men, women and children - stay for free. Some of them took advantage by not letting the couple know they were on assistance from other social agencies, they said.

"We opened this up with absolutely no idea of what homelessness meant at all," Joi said. "We had no concept. We just had faith and a vision."

They needed more than that. Joi's Angels, out of naivete, didn't know it was supposed to have a license to operate a homeless shelter. They were almost shut down, but East Orange granted them a variance.

Lloyd Abdul-Raheem, a former East Orange construction official, remembers the position they were in at the time.

"They were thinking they were helping people and they didn't know how to navigate the approvals," Abdul-Raheem said.

As they sought compliance, senior citizens spoke up on their behalf during a zoning board meeting. In addition to helping the homeless, the Smiths had also started their own food pantry that was popular among the city's seniors.

"I told them (city officials) that if I were homeless I would be glad to live there," said Lena Slaughter, 89. "They don't treat people like they are clients. They treat people like they're family."

This is what drives Mark. He's knows what it's like to be homeless -- a predicament caused by the 10-year drug addiction he once had.

"I felt like when I was out there, people weren't too concerned about you when you were down."

Once he got himself together, Mark said he wanted to give back to others. With 27 years of clean living under his belt, Mark has taken that feeling of rejection from the streets to house the homeless and serve families with basic needs when funds are low.

"They thought he was nuts," Joi said of her family's reaction to Mark's idea. "They thought I was crazy for following. him."

She saw his purpose, and together, Mark and Joi, who reside in Union, made it happen the right way.

Joi's Angels has a pantry for blind veterans at the VA New Jersey Health Care System in East Orange and at Essex County College in Newark for students. The food pantry that started out just for seniors, now serves 2,000 people twice a month.

There's a thrift store with clothes and furniture for families. Mothers receive diapers and baby food. If they're expecting, there's a community baby shower that Lorraine Ebron, an administrative assistant, can't stop talking about. The women, she said, received so many gifts that Mark and Joi ordered Uber cars for some of the mothers to get their items home.

"These people are phenomenal," she said

Joi's Angels distributes toiletries to whoever needs them. Each month, adolescent boys and girls receive hygiene products and they talk about social issues that affect them.

Much of what the organization receives is from donations, some grant money, with the rest from Mark's income as a contractor.

None of the altruism, though, happens without volunteers. Joi's Angels has a dedicated core of 50 people, who get on board once they see Mark and Joi's commitment.

Lewis Fishburne, who was once homeless, has pitched in for the last 13 years after they helped him get settled in Elizabeth.

He said he's been around a lot of organizations, but many of them are not serious about the homeless.

"A lot of those people are about a paycheck," Fisburne said. "It's not about a job with Mark and Joi. You can feel that from them."

Tondra Taylor said she had to be an Angel volunteer once she saw the impact the organization had on people during a Newark event last June to help people struggling to get their lives on track.

"They forgot about homelessness for a minute," said Taylor, speaking about the people. "They had joy in their hearts."

Last weekend, East Orange students from Stem Academy High School and Campus High School got a chance to be part of Joi's Angels' dedication. They wrapped gift baskets for an annual Christmas party that 3,000 people are expected to attend Dec. 15 at Essex County College. There will be games and prizes for kids, a luncheon and bingo for seniors. Several stations with supplies will be set up to help families.

The house where it all began, however, is not a shelter for everyone like it started out. It provides long and short-term housing to 16 men with mental disabilities, along with many programs that benefit the community.

"They care," said Mark Scheider, who moved in a month ago. "They're incredible."

The home, he says, stays busy with people stopping by to volunteer or to receive emergency bags of food. It was the second time last week for Hadiyah Douz, 32, who said being at Joi's Angels is like going to a relative's home for food when you're in need.

"They make you feel welcome," she said.

Mark and Joi said they never thought about quitting when some of the people were less than honest or when the organization was almost closed for not having a license.

He and his wife don't look for attention. They don't want anything, except to be a guiding hand leading folks to better days.



#### ANGELS HOUSE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRIES AND FREE FARMER'S MARKETS

Twice monthly pantries/farmer's markets supply bags of groceries and/or fresh meats and produce to over 2,000 individuals and families.

#### **VETERAN'S FOOD PANTRY**

In partnership with the United States Veteran's Administration, we bring monthly food pantries/free farmers targeted to blind and hearing-impaired veterans receiving outpatient care at the East Orange Veterans Administration Wellness Center. Some of these heroes hail from our neighborhood, while many others arrive at the Outpatient Wellness Center from towns across New Jersey.

#### **COMMUNITY BABY SHOWERS (FOUNDING SPONSOR)**

These annual events for needy mothers were conceived to provide baby essentials and a "true to life" traditional baby shower experience which included games, gifts and prizes, music, a catered menu, and lots of fun!

#### **COMMUNITY CLEANUP**

With governmental and nonprofit partners, we help to organize and participate in community clean-ups in neighborhoods and towns throughout Essex County. We bring a large Army of Angels any of these important events.

#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ENGAGEMENT**

This is where we team with our community partners for meetings, events, and community-building initiatives. We work with approximately 100 other non-profit agencies throughout Northern New Jersey. They are colleagues and friends.

#### **ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE STUDENT FOOD PANTRY**

We partner with Essex County College to operate a full-service pantry on the college's Newark campus. This pantry operates twice per month, and on one Saturday per month. Full- and part-time scholars receive nutritious foods and snack choices during *and* outside of the academic year.

#### HALLOWEEN COSTUME AND CANDY GIVEAWAY

These annual themed events are held at multiple locations during the lead-up to Halloween. Joi's Angels provides over 1,000 children with costumes, candy and snacks before and during celebrations organized by one of our community partners. These events also provide safety and security to thousands of children and peace of mind to their parents.

#### **MOMMY AND ME DIAPER PANTRY**

This monthly program supplies over 100 mothers and fathers with baby diapers and other baby essentials/necessities.



#### **HOLIDAY CARNIVAL (FOUNDING SPONSOR)**

This is Joi's Angels flagship community event. Last year, over 4,000 children received gifts and toys—all for free. Plus, every family and guest enjoys free food. We also offer an open-air toiletry market where persons can shop as if they were in a retail store. It is stocked with thousands of personal care items and other hygiene products. There is a separate open-air baby needs store for mothers. All guests have access to bags of healthy produce and food items, and a wide assortment of new and gently used outerwear for winter. We anticipate that this event will only grow in the coming years.

#### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT COMMUNITY BARBECUE (MUNICIPAL HOST LOCATION)

Joi's Angels has been a host location for National Night Out for over a decade. Our National Night Community Barbeque has grown to attract approximately 1,200 residents. Kids are provided family-friendly fun, a catered barbecue, ice cream and watermelon stations, a fresh produce giveaway, a makeshift outdoor baby needs store, a DJ, and a singing and dancing contest.

#### **OPERATION WARM HEART**

Provides access to (Code Blue): temporary winter emergency housing, hot meals, and bathing facilities; Immediately houses up to 50 homeless individuals based on extreme temperature forecasts.

#### **SENIOR FEED FOR LIFE**

A monthly service, this program has grown to include eight (8) low-income, senior citizen public housing buildings. At each location, Joi's Angels offers either pick-up or delivery of nutritious grocery-store-style food to senior citizens across Northern New Jersey.

#### SHELTER/MEN'S RESIDENCE

The men's residence/shelter is the mainstay of Joi's Angels. Licensed to house up to sixteen men, Joi's Angels specializes in providing supportive housing for those with mental disabilities. Short-term crisis residency ranges from 24 hours to two weeks. Referrals for emergency shelter fluctuate significantly. Annual short-term stays range from a low of 22 persons to a high of 50 persons.

#### **SUMMER WORK EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SWEP)**

In conjunction with city and state agencies, we provide summer jobs for 10-15 high school and college students each year. Joi's Angels ensures that each participant develops his or her character, improves his or her interview skills, and that all gain "real world" work experience, experience that will build a solid foundation for career success.

#### **TURKEY TIME**

As Thanksgiving approaches, needy individuals and families receive free whole turkeys, hams and chickens and holiday fixings. Joi's Angels distributed more than 1,000 individual holiday meats annually.

#### YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Collaborating with judicial and educational agencies, Joi's Angels helps to promote civic engagement and community-mindedness by offering opportunities to over 500 youth per year.



## FOOD PANTRY 2020

### VA NJ HCS BUILDING 15 DINING ROOM

12:00PM - 1:30PM

385 TREMONT AVENUE, EAST ORANGE, NJ 07018

#### WE DON'T KNOW THEM ALL BUT WE OWE THEM ALL.

JANUARY 13 FEBRUARY 10 MARCH 9
APRIL 13 MAY 11 JUNE 8

JULY 13 AUGUST 10 SEPTEMBER 14

OCTOBER 12 NOVEMBER 9 DECEMBER 14

# ALL HEROES ALWAYS WELCOMED.

Let us salute YOU... one pantry at a time.

(973) 395-4348



www.joisangels.com



# BROOKSIDE SENIOR FOOD PANTRY 2020

777 Springdale Avenue, East Orange, NJ 07018

11:00<sub>AM</sub> - 1:00<sub>PM</sub>
COMMUNITY ROOM
Residents Only.

**JANUARY 3** 

JULY 3

**FEBRUARY** 7

**AUGUST** 7

MARCH 6

**SEPTEMBER 4** 

APRIL 3

**OCTOBER 2** 

MAY 1

**NOVEMBER 6** 

JUNE 5

**DECEMBER 4** 

All residents welcome.

Proxy & Home Health Aid Pick-ups

joisangels@gmail.com ♦ 114 S. Arlington Ave., East Orange, NJ 07018 ♦ www.joisangels.com



## FOOD PANTRY 2020

#### **DIAPER DISTRIBUTION**

114 South Arlington Avenue, East Orange, NJ 07018

9:00<sub>AM</sub> - 12:00<sub>PM</sub>

**JANUARY 16** 

**JULY 16** 

FEBRUARY 20

**AUGUST 20** 

MARCH 19

**SEPTEMBER 19** 

APRIL 16

OCTOBER 22

**MAY 21** 

**NOVEMBER 19** 

**JUNE 18** 

**DECEMBER 17** 

## All are welcome.

Please bring a New Jersey Photo ID & one of these proofs:

- Families First Card (TANF)
- Social Security Award Letter
- ♦ Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- Program Eligibility or Checks ◆ Jail/Prison Release Papers ◆ Medicaid Card ◆ Proof of Unemployment

FOR DIAPERS: Child's Birth Certificate (under 3 years old only) and PARENTS only.

(973) 395-4348

www.joisangels.com



#### WITH FRESH PRODUCE

114 South Arlington Avenue, East Orange, NJ 07018

9:00<sub>AM</sub> - 12:00<sub>PM</sub>

**JANUARY 23** 

**JULY 23** 

FEBRUARY 27

**AUGUST 27** 

MARCH 26

**SEPTEMBER 24** 

APRIL 23

OCTOBER 29

**MAY 28** 

**NOVEMBER 24** 

**JUNE 25** 

**DECEMBER 22** 

## All are welcome.

Please bring a New Jersey Photo ID & one of these proofs:

- Families First Card (TANF)
- Social Security Award Letter Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- - Program Eligibility or Checks ◆ Jail/Prison Release Papers ◆ Medicaid Card ◆ Proof of Unemployment

(973) 395-4348

www.joisangels.com



## **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

Furniture, Household Items & Clothing Assistance Program

## WE CAN HELP!

EAST ORANGE RESIDENTS ONLY

**MAKE AN APPOINTMENT** 

#### **QUALIFYING EMERGENCIES**

FIRE ♦ HOMELESS SHELTER TO HOUSING ♦ EVICTION/
LOCKOUT TO NEW HOUSING ♦ BEDBUG FURNITURE
REPLACEMENT ♦ OTHER

#### REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- NJ STATE-ISSUED PHOTO ID
  - PROOF OF INCOME

- PROOF OF EAST ORANGE ADDRESS
  - PROOF OF EMERGENCY

#### **INCOME LIMITS (2019 HUD Guidelines)**

NOTE: East Orange is part of the Newark, NJ HUD Metro FMR Area, so all information presented here applies to all of the Newark, NJ HUD Metro FMR guidelines

# IN HOUSEHOLD	VERY LOW	EXTREMELY LOW
1	\$35,200	\$21,100
2	\$40,200	\$24,100
3	\$45,250	\$27,150
4	\$50,250	\$30,150
5	\$54,250	\$34,550
6	\$58,300	\$34,950
7	\$62,300	\$37,400
8	\$66,350	\$39,800



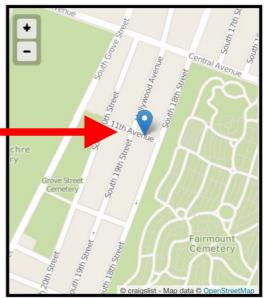
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(ENTRANCE LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET)

266 11th Ave. Newark, NJ 07103

Tel: (862) 888-1855





Thank you for your interest in Joi's Angels. To schedule a tour of our facility, visit a food pantry, or to engage with us as a community partner, please contact Mark or Joi.

## MARK SMITH Executive Director

(973) 395-4348 (office) (862) 888-1855 (mobile) joisangels@gmail.com

## JOI SMITH Assistant Director

(973) 395-4348 (office) (973) 715-8328 (mobile) joisangels@gmail.com

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.

- Helen Keller

